

**David Stuart, Daniel Carroll, and Thomas Johnson,
Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, April 11, 1792,
from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited
by Saul K. Padover.**

Commissioners to Jefferson COMMISSIONERS TO SECRETARY OF STATE

George-Town 11th. April 1792

Sir/

We now send you the Warrants executed on our part: by our counting there are 519 which you'll be pleased to notice. By the rigour of this Loan the whole number of lots remains in Mortga. till the intire payts.. it is desireable if it can, as we suppose, be changed without inconvenience so far as that on Payment of every 200 Dollars one Lot should be released from the Incumbrance. by this the Sale may go on with Safety to Purchasers, as soon as the time of Payment comes, and may much accomadate the public. However, if there's the least Difficulty we do not wish it to be insisted on. We have left the Numbers blank. The situation of things here is very different from what we

expected, or you perhaps have any Idea of. People are on tip Toe to come from all parts, we might probably have 2000 mechanics and labourers here on very short notice, we think therefore, there is no occasion to import People from abroad unless Stone-cutters of whom there are but few and their wages high of them indeed 20, or 30 from Scotland are desirable & we wish them introduced. We are of Oppinion that in the application of the Funds, we ought to class our work, into Necessary, Usefull, and Ornamental, preferring them in that order. Without going into the Question of right to apply the money to defray the expence of Mr. Cerachie's Design or the propriety of the design itself, we decline going

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into that business. You may be assured Sir that our Coolness does not proceed from any Disinclination to concur in monumental Acknowledgments of the Favour of Heaven and the Virtues of the Heroe but it certainly ought to be a National Act.

We cannot but be unesy at the situation . . . chosen for the Capitol we have had a free conversation with Majr. Ellicott on it and on View of the ground, taking in the value of Mr. Youngs improvements which must be paid for on the present plans taking place, and which may be left clear by a small alteration, we reckon the difference of expence must be at least 15,000£ but that still is not the worst, within three Hundred Yards the inviting Situation will always reproach the Choice presuming that the delay and Expences influenced we should be glad this business was reconsidered. Ellicott says in his letter which we enclose, it will not take above 3, or 4 weeks to correct what will be necessary, this may be shortened, we have no doubt by introducing a few accurate measures, and the difference of expence much in favour of it. we have told Majr. Ellicott that we wish an opportunity, to make

him a present at the Close of the work for his Expedition in doing it. He says and the Fact is that the Deviation for the Plate will be imperceptable but on measuring, and that the Plate will convey an Idea of the work sufficiently exact to any man living. We would avoid Importunity but the President will bear a little with our anxiety and let us know his Resolution soon which will be chearfully executed though it should be contrary to our wish. We are Sir &c.

Tho. Johnson

Dd. Stuart

Danl. Carroll

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[Pp. 78–80, COMMISSIONERS' LETTERBOOK Vol. I, 1791–1793, in the National Archives.]